Energy cooperation among BIMSTEC Countries

*533. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BIMSTEC countries had adopted a plan of action for cooperation in energy sector in October, 2005 at Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has so far been taken in pursuance of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Plan of Action adopted for Energy Cooperation by BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on 4th October, 2005 is in Statement (*See* below)

(c) Following actions have been taken so far for implementation of the Plan of Action:

(i) 'BIMSTEC Trans Power Exchange and Development Project'- The First Meeting of Task Force was held in Thailand on 28-29 March, 2006.

(ii) 'The Workshop on Harmonization of Grid Standards' was hosted by India on 06.02.2006.

(iii) 'The Workshop for discussing the Concept Note of BIMSTEC Energy Centre' was hosted by India on 25-27 January, 2006. Draft Concept Note was evolved.

(iv) Bhutan has scheduled a workshop on sharing of experience on Rural Electrification with emphasis on remote area electrification on 6-8 June, 2006.

Statement

Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation in BIMSTEC

A. BIMSTEC Trans Power Exchange and Development Project

(i) Task Force being led by Thailand, with representatives of

member countries, will give a report within one year on draft MoU for grid interconnections. The Task Force would consider issues which *inter alia* include flow of electricity on a non-discriminatory basis taking cognizance of capacity availability in respective national grids, also to consider steps to harmonise technical, planning and operational standards of the national grids for removing barriers to grid interconnections.

(ii) A Workshop on Harmonization of Grid Standards would be hosted by India some times in December 05.

B. Trans BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline(s)

(iii) A Task Force is to be constituted with representatives of all member countries for deciding Terms of Reference for the study on Trans BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline(s) and suggesting further course of action after taking into account the work done so far. Thailand would host the first Meeting of this Task Force early next year.

Thailand also offered to host a Workshop on Petroleum Reserves in BIMSTEC Region. It was agreed that this Workshop would be organized to coincide with the first meeting of the Task Force.

(iv) India will host a Conference to consider Energy Charter Treaty and other such arrangements, which have emerged for regional energy trade, in February-March 2006.

C. Hydro potential of the BIMSTEC region

(v) India woudl host a workshop on sharing of experiences in developing hydro projects.

D. Non-Conventional Sources of energy

(vi) Myanmar will coordinate setting up a website with the help of all member countries. India would prepare a concept paper on broad structure, content and operational mechanism of the agreed website. In this regard, a meeting will be held in Bangkok in the later half of November, 2005 for discussing the concept paper and steps required to take the activity further.

(vii) Nepal will host a workshop on Small Hydro Projects. Nepal to confirm the venue and date latest by January 2006.

(viii) Thailand will host a Workshop and site visits for member countries, in the area of rice husk cogeneration in second half of year 2006.

(ix) India will prepare a status paper on renewable sources of energy in member countries to be presented in next SEnOM.

(x) Solar Energy Centre in India will coordinate cooperation activity in association with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in solar energy systems/devices, standards and testing.

(xi) The BIMSTEC Task Force on Renewable Energy would carry out harmonization of standards for various non-conventional energy sources.

E. Energy Efficiency

(xii) Sri Lanka would host a two-day workshop on experience sharing in certification of energy managers and energy auditors in the second quarter of the year 2006.

(xiii) An expert group will be constituted with participation of all the member countries on standards and labeling to be led by India. This would include testing systems, procedures and hardwares. The Expert Group will meet in second quarter of the year 2006. All member countries to forward names of their nominees to India. India would confirm the dates and venue for the meeting latest by January 2006.

F. Energy Security

(xiv) A two-day conference on sharing of experience regarding efficient development of coal resoruces will be hosted by Bangladesh in September 2006. Venue and dates to be confirmed by Bangladesh by April 2006.

(xv) A workshop for discussing concept note on BIMSTEC Energy Centre would be hosted by India on January 25-27, 2006.

(xvi) A workshop on sharing of experiences on Rural Electricity Cooperatives (to be confirmed by Bangladesh).

(xvii) Bhutan will organize a workshop on sharing of experience in rural electrification with emphasis on remote area electrification some time in May/June 2006. Bhutan to confirm the venue and date by January 2006.

Problems faced by families affected by Tehri Dam

†* 534. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious consideration is being given to solve the rehabilitation problem of Tehri Dam, Asia's largest dam under construction, within a period of three months on the lines of displaced persons of Sardar Sarovar Dam;

(b) the names of districts in which the displaced persons of Tehri Dam (Garhwal division) have been rehabilitated;

(c) the details of facilities provided to the displaced persons in the districts in which they have been rehabilitated; and

(d) the number of persons to whom compensation amount has finally been paid and the number of cases pending so far out of the displaced people whose houses and land have got submerged?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) The resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) works of Tehri Dam Project are being handled by the Government of Uttaranchal with the funds being provided by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC). An attractive and a liberal rehabilitation package has been evolved, which has been improved from time to time. The sufficiency of the rehabilitation package has also been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

All the eligible fully affected 5291 urban families have already been rehabilitated. Out of the 5429 eligible rural families, who will be displaced when the full reservoir level of 830 meters is reached, all families residing upto the reservoir level of 790 meters have been paid full compensation. As the full reservoir level is likely to be achieved over the period of next

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.